1854MNRAS..14...65R

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

Vol. XIV. *January* 13, 1854. No. 3.

G. B. Airy, Esq., in the Chair.

J. R. Christie, Esq., Royal Military Academy, Woolwich;
Rev. W. J. Read, Huddersfield Collegiate School;
Eyre Burton Powell, Esq., Madras Native College;
James William Grant, Esq., Wester Elchies, Morayshire; and
Rev. Robert Harley, Airedale College, Bradford,

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The Editor has been requested to announce to the Fellows of the Society that there still remains the sum of seventeen pounds to be realised in order to complete the amount required for defraying the expense of the bust of Mr. Adams, which it has been proposed to place in one of the apartments of the Society. Those who have not yet contributed towards this object are consequently reminded that it is not yet too late to co-operate in the matter, while such as have already forwarded the limited sum required of them, according to the terms of the original announcement of the project, will, no doubt, be glad to have the opportunity of adding a little to their former subscriptions. As it is desirable to bring the engagement with the artist to a definitive conclusion as speedily as possible, it is to be hoped that those Fellows of the Society who are favourable to the project will lose no time in using a little exertion among their friends towards procuring their aid in raising the necessary sum. Subscriptions will be received by the Rev. T. Pelham Dale, at the Apartments of the Society, Somerset House, or at his residence, Sion College, London Wall.

Observations of the Second Comet of Klinkerfues (Comet V. 1853) made with the Equatoreal at Hamburg. By M. C. Rümker.[*]

	Hamb. M.T.	Comet's R.A.	Comet's Decl.	Com.
1853.	h m s	° ′ ″	° ′ ″	
Dec. 22	6 15 27·9	16 57 41·9	+28 46 49·7	8
25	7 0 31·0	37 46·7	25 52 57·3	15
28	7 18 45·0	16 25 51·1	+23 13 0·9	8

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[*] It appears that this comet, which was first discovered in Europe, at Göttingen, on the 2d of December, 1853, had been already discovered at Newark, in the State of New York, U.S., on the 25th of November.

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Apparent Positions of Compared Stars, according to Re-observation with the Meridian Circle.

1853.	App. R.A.	App. Decl.
	° ′ ″	° ′ ″
Dec. 22	1 5 57·267	+28 47 57·7
25	5 35·878	25 40 44·7
...	6 49·382	25 40 25·8
...	4 51·485	22 41 16·3
...	8 57·531	23 26 7·7
...	1 10 15·788	+23 6 45·5

Observations of Euterpe with the Meridian Circle.
By M. C. Rümker.

1853.	Hamb. M.T.	R.A.	Decl.	Log $\frac{q}{P}$
	h m s	° ′ ″	° ′ ″	
Dec. 10	9 34 11·7	43 2 23·3	+14 51 17·9	9·7969
13	9 21 10·4	42 43 57·4	14 50 33·9	9 7962
14	9 16 54·4	42 38 54·7	14 50 40·0	9·7966
22	8 44 7·0	42 18 49·9	14 57 5·5	9·7951
25	8 32 26·4	42 20 37·4	15 2 18·1	9·7942
28	8 21 6·9	42 27 41·5	+15 8 54·4	9·7932

Some Suggestions in Explanation of the Cause of the Primitive Incandescent Condition of the Earth and other Planets. By James Nasmyth, Esq.

Among the many facts which geological research has developed there appears none more clearly established than that of the igneous, or molten, condition of the entire mass of our globe at some vastly remote era of its physical history; and that its present condition is the result of a succession of changes consequent on the escape, or passage into space, of the greater portion of that primitive heat, the residue of which yet manifests itself deep under the now solid crust of the earth in those molten outbursts which the now comparatively few active volcanoes vomit forth, and which we may consider to be the expiring vestiges of the once universal molten state of our globe.

As I have not met with any attempt to trace to its source, or assign a cause of, this primitive molten condition of the earth, in the most earnest, but humble spirit of philosophic suggestion and inquiry, I desire to offer in this brief form the result of some thoughts on this interesting subject, in the hope that the following remarks may chance to suggest further investigation, and so yield results more worthy of so grand a subject.

In order to state in the most simple form *the principle* upon which I base my speculations on the source of the primitive heat of our globe, I would refer to the well-known principle in the laws of matter,—namely, that when matter, whether in the solid, fluid, or

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